AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing discomfort, unpleasant symptoms, irritation, or pain associated with a tissue, the method comprising contacting the tissue with a pharmaceutical, dermatological or cosmetic composition or a medical device comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a biocompatible polymer corresponding to the following general formula (I)

AaXxYy (I)

in which:

A represents a monomer,

X represents a RCOOR' group,

Y represents an O or N-sulphonate group bound to A ~~and corresponding to one of the following formulas - ROSO3R', - RNSO3R' in which~~:

R represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon chain, possibly branched and/or unsaturated and which may contain one or more aromatic rings and R' represents one hydrogen atom or one cation,

a represents the number of monomers,

x represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by the X groups,

y represents the rate of substitution of the A monomers by Y groups

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the A monomers, identical or different, are selected from among sugars, esters, alcohols, amino acids, nucleotides, nucleic acids and proteins.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the mass of the polymers of formula (I) is greater than approximately 2000 daltons.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein x is between approximately 20 and 150%.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein y is between approximately 30 and 150%.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the radical R is a linear or branched alkyl, allyl or aryl group.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible polymer comprises functional chemical groups Z, different from X and Y and capable of bestowing additional biological or physical and chemical properties on the said polymers.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the rate of substitution of all the A monomers by Z groups represented by "z" is between 0 and 50%.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Z group is a substance capable of bestowing on the said polymers improved solubility or lipophilicity.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the Z groups are identical or different and are amino acids, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, ceramides or derivatives thereof, or nucleotide sequences.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the Z groups are identical or different and are therapeutic agents.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains and/or itching induced by lesions or irritations in an individual in an area in contact with an outside medium.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the lesions or irritations are selected among skin lesions, corneal lesions, lesions of the eardrum, lesions of the digestive tract, lesions of the respiratory tract such as lesions of the tissues of the airways and lungs and lesions of the urogenital tract.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat pains in the tendons and/or cartilages and/or the joints and/or the back and/or the muscles and in general, following impact and/or diffuse pains in the abdomen or in the head.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising contacting the skin with a cosmetic composition for prevention and relief of tingling, irritation, itching or pulling associated with the skin, cornea or mucosae.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to prevent, relieve and/or treat

- the pain and/or pruritus induced by
* deep skin burns;
* scars and cicatricial tissue;
* ulcers of the skin and/or the mucosae and/or the cornea;
* peripheral and/or degenerative neuropathies;
* cold sores;
* chapping;
* hyperkeratinisation of the skin, psoriasis, eczema or herpes zoster;
* a surgical operation;
* radiotherapy;
* a lesion of the eardrum;
* asthma and/or rhinitis and/or bronchial obstruction;
* aphthous ulcers and/or sore throats and/or dental pains;
* arthroses or arthritis;
- irritation of the mucosae and/or the skin; or
- chronic diseases characterised by destruction and/or permanent remodelling of the extracellular matrix.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical or dermatological composition or the medical device is intended to promote remodelling of closed scars.